

BATTLE IN NORTHERN FRANCE NOW A TITANIC STRUGGLE

of the front the situation has not been changed.

North of the Aisne our artillery has destroyed three German batteries.

The report of the afternoon, which first contained news that the allies had been forced to surrender some ground, stated that the Germans are developing their new offensive with young and middle aged troops recently trained and that the hardest blows are being struck between the North Sea and the Oise. The report, which was given out at 2:55 P. M., was as follows:

On our left wing the very considerable German forces whose presence was reported yesterday have continued very violent attacks in the entire region between the sea and the canal of La Bassée.

Generally speaking the situation of the allied forces has been maintained. If the allies have had to give ground at certain points they have advanced at others. The enemy has evidenced very great activity also in the region of Arras and on the river Somme. To the north and to the south of this stream we have progressed, particularly in the region of Rosieres-en-Santerre.

In the region of Verdun and in the region of Pont-a-Mousson we have had some partial successes. On the rest of the front there is nothing to report.

To sum up: The enemy appears to be undertaking, along the major part of the front and particularly between the North Sea and the Oise, a new effort, making use of corps made up of new organizations. These are composed of men recently drafted, some of them very young and others of middle age, formed from practically all army classes.

Russia—To the south of the Pilica the Germans still hold the Vistula River, with the exception of the line from Ivangorod to Kozienice, which they have abandoned, pursued by the Russians.

All the efforts made by the Austrians to cross the River San, to the north of Jaroslav, have been repulsed, and the Russians are undertaking the offensive in this region.

(Santerre is one of the old geographical divisions of France, now comprised in the departments of the Somme and the Oise. It is about 180 miles east by southeast of Amiens, on the railroad to Nesle and Ham.)

A verbal note given out before the issuance of the afternoon communiqué drew attention to the great progress made since the end of last month, when the bulk of the French forces were resting on the Oise near Compiègne, while the forces in the west had scarcely passed the Somme near Amiens.

To-day the fighting is on a front prolonged some 200 kilometers and reaching into Belgium.

5,000 LOST IN FIGHT.

German Said to Have Suffered Enormously Near Bethune.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—A Daily Mail correspondent telegraphs to-day from a town on the River Lys that the allies have had a successful day. The first importance since Monday, and that the position of the Germans in Belgium and in northern France has steadily grown more insecure.

At Vieille Chapelle, about six miles from Bethune, on Wednesday the Germans must have lost 5,000 in killed and wounded. The allies shelled their trenches and then attacked the Germans with the bayonet, driving them from these defenses.

The Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily Mail learns that the German extreme right was rolled back to-day, leaving open positions for a flanking movement and clearing the way for the advance.

The Amsterdam correspondent of the Times quotes the Telegraf's correspondent at Sluis to the effect that the Germans did not prosper to-day in the fighting along the whole front of the Flanders. He says 4,000 German wounded were brought to Ghent to-night. The previous reports of the evacuation of Belgium and the evacuation of the Germans are really clearing out now, as their movements along the front prove. The struggle is still undecided, however.

LOSSES ARE LARGE.

700 Germans Killed in Fight at One Town.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—Correspondents in Belgium telegraph that the German coast army is being thrown back and that the German headquarter is at Ghent. There are reports that the Germans have evacuated Bruges.

The Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily Mail learns that the German coast army is being rolled up like a ribbon. He sends a report that the allies have cut the German line south of Ostend, that the big German guns being advanced to the coast stuck in bog and that the German cavalry was unable to maneuver in the dike country.

A Times correspondent sends news, however, that the Germans are still in great force in the neighborhood of Ostend and that they have not evacuated Bruges. Such withdrawals as they have made, he declares, were merely precautionary measures made necessary by the activity of the allies in the south and southwest.

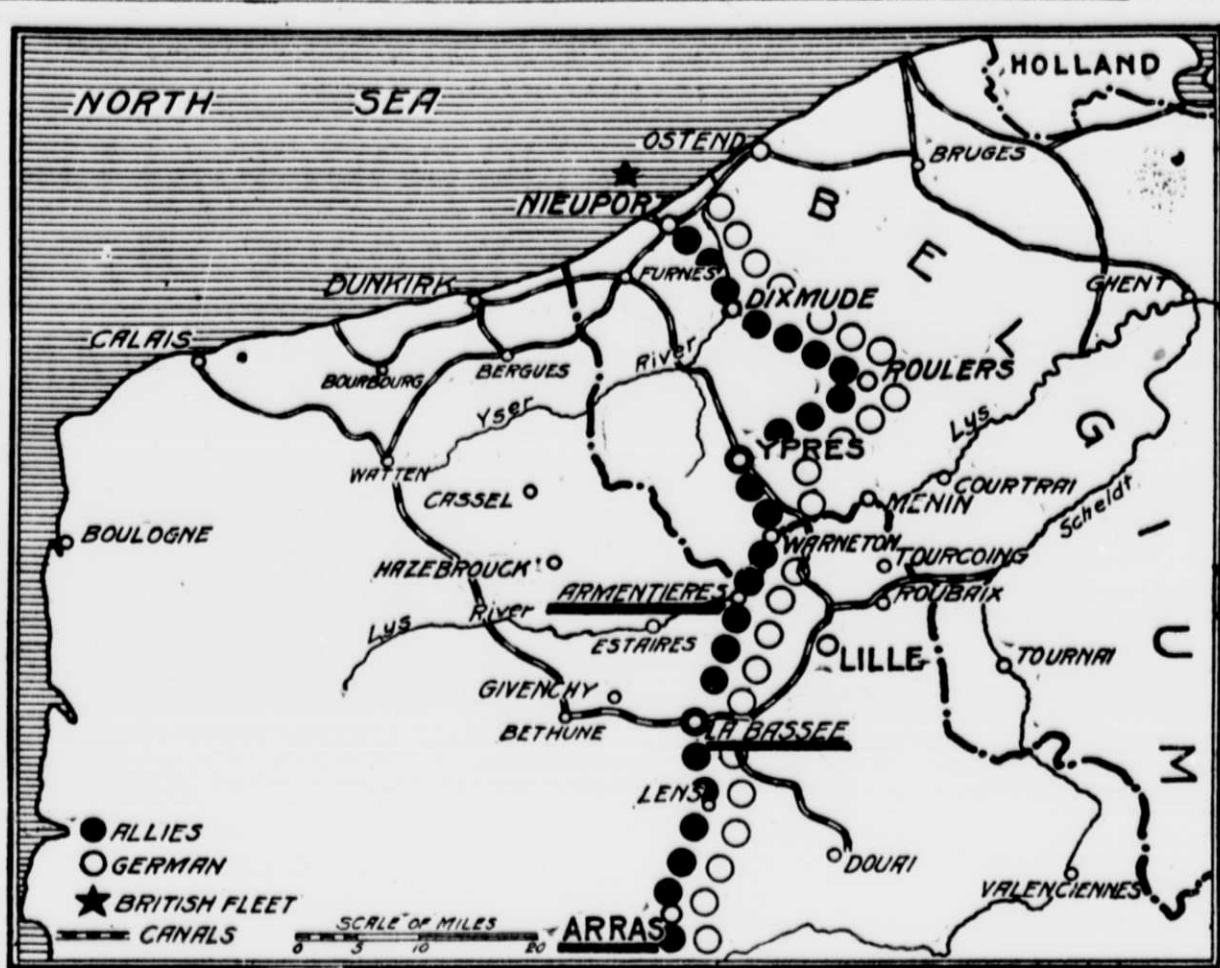
An idea of the severity of the fighting in Belgium is gained from a despatch to the Daily Chronicle from Dunkirk, which says that 700 German dead have been buried near Nieuport as a result of the fighting there, and that the total German casualties in the coast fighting were 10,000. Thirty thousand Germans who had entrenched themselves between Ostend and Nieuport retired to Ostend, leaving behind a great quantity of equipment.

There is a report in the Daily Chronicle that the guns of the British warships destroyed a German convoy eight miles long. From German sources come the news that the British ships are bombarding Ostend.

The Star's Rotterdam correspondent says the whole Belgian coast has been deserted by the population, only soldiers remaining in the coast towns.

There are reports of reports more or less favorable to the allies, but it seems evident that the German offensive in Belgium and northern France continues, and is being worked up to a supreme effort. The fighting, which has consisted very largely of artillery combats, with occasional infantry charges, has been going on for nearly a week, since the Germans moved south from Ostend and Ghent. The losses have been very heavy. It is not believed here that the struggle can be continued as intensively as has been the struggle along the Oise and the Aisne.

Military opinion is strongly on the side of victory for the allies. It is pointed out that the German effort to advance rapidly along the coast has been frustrated by warships and that as long as the coast is made untenable, their frontal attacks cannot result in permanent advantage.



The places underlined in the above map were mentioned in the official statements from Paris yesterday as the points of the most severe fighting along the left wing.

The Germans kept up violent attacks in the whole region which lies between the sea and La Bassée. They likewise show great activity in the region of the Arras

and on the Somme to the north and south of the river.

The allies lost ground at several points around La Bassée, but they gained to the east of Arras. In a general way, says the official statement, on this part of the front the situation remains practically without modification.

MANY GERMAN GIRLS ARE SHOT AS SPIES

Accept Doom Bravely When French Court-Martial Condemns Them.

LONDON, Oct. 24.—The Standard publishes the following despatch from its correspondent in "the north of France":

"No lists or even figures are officially disclosed, but the shooting of batches of spies takes place daily in this and other towns of the district, and in these last three days nearly as many women have been shot as men. The most shocking veteran loathes the task of shooting women, but according to the laws of war it must be done. They are lined up with the men, often young girls or women of refinement at the zenith of their charm and beauty; and so, according to their lights, they give their lives for their country and meet death as bravely as any man."

"So many spies have been caught in France recently that the possession of papers apparently in good order avails a man or woman nothing once an accusation has been made and suspicion aroused. It is asserted that no German tongue can over pronounce certain French words without betraying itself. It is failure to pass tests of this kind which condemns them to death. Their papers may have been stolen and the signatures on their passports studied so that the holders can produce passable imitations at will. Spies have even been caught with their own photographs superimposed upon others on passports and with the official stamps on the photographs counterfeited."

"I saw a woman challenged in the street yesterday, seized and taken to the police station. She was well dressed and of the last type which ordinary home-staying English people would suspect of espionage—apparently a prosperous widow of about 30, leading a little boy by the hand, but I have heard since that it proved a clear case. By changing her lodgings every day for a week she had evaded the war regulations of the local authorities that strangers must not remain more than twenty-four hours in any town in this part of France without reporting personally to the police. Her plan was apparently to take the Folkestone boat as soon as she was ready."

LORD CAVENTISH KILLED.

Duke of Roxburgh Also Wounded in Fighting on Continent.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—Lord John Spencer Cavendish, son of the late Lord Edward Cavendish and youngest brother of the Duke of Devonshire, has been killed in action on the Continent.

The Duke of Roxburgh, Captain in the Scots Guard, has been slightly wounded while doing service in France, according to the Daily Mail. He will recover.

Kink George and Queen Mary visited the Duke of Roxburgh in the hospital to-day.

Lord Cavendish, who was born in 1875, was a Major in the First Life Guards, which he joined at the outbreak of the Boer war. He was frequently mentioned for bravery in the Boer war and received the Distinguished Service Order and the medal with six clasps.

The Duke of Roxburgh married Miss May Goelet of New York in 1903 and is well known in America. The couple have one son, who was born in 1913.

AIR RAID ON PARIS HALTED.

Taube Turn Tail When French Aeroplanes Are Sighted.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Oct. 23.—The following official statement was issued to-day:

"Two Taube aeroplanes, tempted by the first clear day in a week, were sighted over Compiègne to-day, headed for Paris. A French defensive fleet of aeroplanes ascended to give battle, but the Taubes reversed their direction and descended well behind the imperial trenches."

AUSTRALIAN MEAT EXAMINED.

Shipment Tested at Bordeaux and Found Suitable for Army.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

Bordeaux, Oct. 23.—The steamship Manchester City, which arrived here with 500 tons of Australian frozen meat for the army, remains anchored in the Gironde, doubts were expressed as to the suitability of the meat for the forces in the field. These doubts were fully dispelled by practical demonstrations on the spot. Some of the meat was cooked and was found to be of prime quality. Other shipments will follow shortly.

Report Some of Belfort Forts Taken

Rumor in Berlin—Paris Hears French Have Taken Altkirch.

By HERBERT DUCKWORTH.

Special correspondent of The Sun and the London "Daily News."

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 23.—Despatches received here from Berlin say it is rumored there that the German attack on Belfort is succeeding and that the southern forts have surrendered.

Report French Take Altkirch.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Oct. 23.—It is reported here that the French forces have taken Altkirch, in Haute Alsace, at the point of the bayonet.

ALLIES NEAR OSTEND.

Make Advance in Coast Fighting Amid the Dunes.

By The Sun's and the London "Daily Mail" War Service.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

FLUSHING, Oct. 23 (Friday, 6:40 P. M.).—Heavy firing was again heard at 5 o'clock this morning in the direction of the seaward.

As a result of severe fighting amid the dunes the allies have advanced further toward Ostend. The lines now extend from the coast through Lombardzyde and Mamelonsvere and to Slupe and St. Pierre Capelle. The Germans between the villages of Westende and Westende-Bains were exposed to fire on three sides. Warships are now off Middelkerke.

A very large number of supply trains have returned to Bruges. Cavalry is reported to be active, working up from Thourout. The Germans placed artillery between Thourout and Jabbeke last night. The enemy is still occupying Thielt, Ghent and Bruges are quiet.

GERMAN FORCE ROUTED.

Belgians Literally Massacred One Column, Says Report.

By The Sun's and the London "Daily Mail" War Service.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

NORTH FRANCE, Oct. 22 (Thursday).—The battle on the extreme right German wing in the region of Nieuport is one of extraordinary violence. The Belgian troops helped the vessels of the British fleet and literally massacred the German force which attempted to push out a column south toward Dunkirk, keeping close to the seashore and using the undulating sand dunes as cover.

Wounded Belgian soldiers sent back from the front declare that at high tide the waves are washing piles of German dead up to the beach.

From Monday to Wednesday the inhabitants of the French frontier towns could hear a continuous cannonade. Information from a thoroughly trustworthy source is to the effect that the Germans brought strong reinforcements from the center and the region around Rheims to strengthen their right wing.

AUSTRIANS TAKEN TO TOULON.

Aeroplanes Failed to Stop Vessel With Prisoners.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Oct. 23.—A convoy of Austrian prisoners arrived this morning by boat at Toulon. The vessel was pursued unsuccessfully by aeroplanes, which dropped bombs, but the bombs fell into the ocean.

Swedish Steamer Sunk by Mine.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—The Swedish steamer Alice, bound to her home port, struck a mine in the North Sea and sunk. Her crew was saved.

We take pleasure in notifying the public that we have overcome all the difficulties attending the importation from Europe of

John Jameson & Son
Martini & Rossi
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and that there is no shortage or delay in supplying the demand in the United States.

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RUSHING FOOD FOR STARVING BELGIUM

Contributions Pour In From Every Side on London Commission.

AID FROM UNITED STATES

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—T. F. Lacey and Milard K. Shaler left here to-day for Brussels to determine the number of Belgians in need of aid. They represent the American Commission for the Relief of Belgium, which was organized at the American Embassy on Thursday night.

The commission has received through Ambassador Page a donation of \$10,000 (\$50,000) from Robert W. de Forest of New York.

Comte de Lalaing has notified the commission that 7,000 frozen sheep have been contributed by Australia and are now on the way to England and will be consigned to the commission. Comte de Lalaing handed over \$100,000 (\$500,000) of Belgian relief funds, with which the commission is buying food for emergency use.

Notification of the shipment of supplies from Brooklyn women has been received and transshipment of these to Belgium is being arranged for.

Owing to the fact that the British Government does not wish the food supply on the islands depleted it will be necessary to bring virtually all of the food for Belgium from the United States, and this must come in neutral ships. The situation in many parts of Belgium is understood to be such that unless food reaches there quickly conditions will become desperate. At Liege, Charleroi and Brussels in particular many are on the verge of starvation. At Charleroi the people are subsisting on potato soup alone. In Brussels the supplies will last only until to-morrow.

The commission has already purchased \$250,000 worth of foodstuffs in the name of Ambassador Page and of the American Minister at Brussels, Brand Whitlock. The distribution will begin at once through the local branches of the commission.

The Spanish Ambassador here and the Spanish Minister to Brussels have joined the commission and their nationals will assist in the work.

POPE THANKS CARDINAL.

Expresses Gratitude for Work of Archbishop of Cologne.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Oct. 23.—The Temps prints the full text of the letter written by Pope Benedict XV. to Cardinal Hartmann, Archbishop of Cologne, regarding the relief of Belgium by the Germans of priests serving in the French army as soldiers.

The letter concludes by expressing the Pope's conviction that Cardinal Hartmann's charity was not limited to French priests, but extended to all prisoners of whatever race and religion.

"We received thy good news that his Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, consenting to thy prayers, has decided that God's priests belonging to the French army, when prisoners of Germany, should be treated as officers. Truly, at a moment of great bitterness when all Europe is devastated by steel and fire and reddened by the blood of Christians, thy words have been of great comfort to us. We comprehend by this news how greatly thy soul is inspired by love toward all who are bound to thee by priestly ties."

"In the southern of the two spheres in which we have been engaged, on the Alsace our right wing has been maintaining its pressure without actually moving forward, while in the northern sphere our left wing has advanced a considerable distance in face of some opposition."

"On the Aisne, since the repulse inflicted on the enemy the night of October 10, there has been no serious fighting and less artillery action than usual, for the reason that the misty and occasional rainy weather has rendered observation almost impossible and militated against the employment of guns. On the night of October 13-14 the enemy committed an attack which was not pushed through and which may be regarded as a demonstration. Our patrols have been active with the bayonet at night, and they have accounted for numerous small parties of German infantry left to occupy their front trenches. But the positions of the opposing forces have remained practically unaltered."

"In the north of France the fighting so far has been of a preparatory nature alone. As stated, ground has been gained by us, but the misty weather has hampered aerial reconnaissance and at times rendered artillery cooperation almost impossible, which factors, taken together with the nature of the terrain, have made progress somewhat slow."

"On October 12 a brilliant little exploit was performed by one of our cavalry patrols coming suddenly upon a German machine gun detachment. The subaltern in command at once gave the order to charge, with the result that some of the Germans were killed, the rest scattered and the gun captured and carried off."

ITALY TO BUY WAR GOODS HERE.

Commission, Headed by General, to Purchase Supplies and Horses.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

ROME, Oct. 23.—An Italian military commission, headed by a General, will proceed to the United States shortly to make contracts for army supplies and also for remounts.

Austrian Troops in Paris March.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Oct. 23.—The notebook of a Prussian Guardsman proves the presence of Austrian troops throughout the German advance on Paris from Belgium.

Swedish Steamer Sunk by Mine.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—The Swedish steamer Alice, bound to her home port, struck a mine in the North Sea and sunk. Her crew was saved.

BRIEUX WRITES TO FRENCH SOLDIER WHO GETS NO LETTER

To the fatherless soldier, without family, fighting for France Eugene Brioux, the well known Academician, has addressed a letter in the Bulletin des Armes—a letter of cheer and felicitation, a letter to the soldier who receives none. M. Brioux is particularly well known in the United States through the success of his play "Les Avaries" (Damaged Goods). The letter follows:

Of course there are very few among our soldiers who never receive any letters. But if there is only one it is to him that I am writing.

I can just see you, my poor young lad; I can see your embarrassment and your sadness when the post sergeant appears, a bundle of letters in his hands, calling out name after name and distributing to eager hands the envelopes containing messages from the family and kisses from mothers. Everybody is intent and each one lends his ear. Not you. You know in advance that there is nothing for you, that there is never anything for you. And even when the others rush toward the distributor of joys you, if you can, on the contrary, step aside; you know the bundle, no matter how big, contains nothing for you and you are not keen to have your comrades notice that you have no family and that nobody writes to you.

You do not weep. You are accustomed to such disappointments. You know that you are not like others. Others have each a father and a mother; you never had any. You are all alone.

You fight, however, as well as your comrades. And when you do only as well as they you are doing something more.

The other fight to defend the homes of their ancestors, to defend their property. You have neither home, ancestors nor property, and you fight, however, with as much heart as those who receive letters by each mail. Why, then, do you go under fire? Perhaps you never asked yourself the question. I will tell it to you.

You fight for the future. Others fight for the past and the present. You for the children that you will have. Indeed if there is one who fights for an ideal it is you; it certainly is you. You fight for the young Frenchmen that are just born and for those who will be born.

You fight so that they shall not have to suffer the shame of the domination of barbarians, the domination of those who slap their own soldiers, the tyranny of brutes that kill off the wounded, shoot all grandfathers, murder women, burn villages and bombard cathedrals.

If you die at this calling no one will mourn you, my poor lad. But you shall not die. When you return victorious you know well that you will receive only public homage. After having heard the hurrahs of the street you will again find yourself all alone, as usual, whereas others will go toward the homes where they are awaited, where the joyful tears of trembling mothers will moisten their cheeks and receive the kisses of little brothers, frightened in the presence of the one who returns from the war. There is not a corner of the earth for you where the young hero who left as a child and has returned a veteran will have to relate before specially invited neighbors his miseries and his glories.

Brace up, my dear young fellow! Let me tell you something; I shall make you a prophecy—the pretty girl of whom you are thinking, the one to whom you did not dare confess your love, the one whom you love or whom you will love, that one will look upon you with more gentle eyes when you shall return and when she learns that you were brave.

Go right ahead cheerfully. Do not think you will die. One must not die. And in war the best way not to get killed is to kill the one who aims at you. Fleeing is no use; the bullets overtake the best runner. Have confidence! Life has up to now always been unfair and cruel to you. It owes you a compensation. You shall have it. Do not say to yourself: "I will sacrifice myself." Say to yourself: "I will conquer."

Be not ashamed to be the one to whom no one writes. Be proud. Others are born into a family; you shall have the pride to create your own. They have received; you shall give, and your role is the finest.

Once more, my lad, courage and good luck. And let me send you an embrace, I, who have no son, to you who have no father.

EUGENE BRIEUX.

KAISER FOR MONROE RULE?

Reported That Germany Has Assured U. S. on the Doctrine.

Germany has assured the United States, Dr. Bernhard Dernburg, former Colonial Secretary of the German Government, said yesterday, it was reported, that no matter what may be the outcome of the present war, she will respect the Monroe Doctrine. This was communicated to the American Secretary of State during the first three weeks of the war, Dr. Dernburg said, by Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador at Washington. Records of this assurance, he continued, could be found in the archives in Washington.

The course of Germany has constantly been to abide by the Monroe Doctrine, he went on. The German attitude was shown in the Venezuela troubles when Grover Cleveland was President, and later when Germany herself had difficulties with Venezuela. The Government of Germany again made its position clear, he concluded, when Canada promised aid to England in the present war, and, according to Dr. Dernburg, violated the spirit of the doctrine. It was at this time that Count von Bernstorff communicated his assurances to the Government here.

No confirmation of this could be obtained last night in Washington.

British Officers in Death List.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—A casualty list dated October 18, issued to-day, contains the names of ten British officers killed and twenty-nine wounded. The dead include Lieut. Sir R. G. V. Duff of the Second Life Guards.

First Reports said that Prince Maximilian, who was 20 years old, had been shot by his own men, died in battle.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—The official news bureau gave out to-day the details of the death of Prince Maximilian of Hesse, a son of the Kaiser's youngest sister. He was killed on October 12 in the severe engagement in the neighborhood of Mont Descauts and was buried on the grounds of the monastery crowning the hill, together with three British officers and some German soldiers.

The first reports said that Prince Maximilian, who was 20 years old, had been shot by his own men, died in battle. These reports are now known to have been false.

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